

COLOUR.—The specimen above described appears, in its present state, greyish brown, with zig-zag lines in different directions of a darker tint. A second individual is stated by Mr. Darwin to have been, when alive, "above salmon-coloured." A third is described as "above aureous-coppery, with wave-like lines of dark brown, which often collect into four or five transverse bands; fins lead-colour; beneath obscure; pupil dark blue." Both these last specimens appear now, like the first, greyish-brown. The wave-like lines extend over a portion of the dorsal and anal fins.

Habitat, coast of Northern Patagonia, and the mouth of the Plata.

This species is evidently very closely allied to the *P. Brasilianum* of Cuvier and Valenciennes, and possibly may not be distinct. It differs, however, in having only two, instead of three, teeth on the basal margin of the preopercle, which character prevails in all the specimens. It has also one or two more soft rays in the anal. It likewise approaches the *P. aculeatum* of the same authors, but this last species is said to be particularly characterized by three very sharp points on the subopercle towards the lower angle, in the room of which, in the species here described, there is only one small triangular flattened point, rather sharp in two individuals, but in the third blunt, with the margin slightly crenated. The colours too appear to be different.

Mr. Darwin's collection contains three specimens, which do not materially differ from each other. The largest, measuring fifteen inches in length, was taken in forty fathoms water off the mouth of the Rio Plata. The two others, smaller, and not exceeding nine, and seven and a half inches respectively, were got on the coast of Patagonia in lat. $38^{\circ} 20'$: where it is stated that great numbers were obtained, many exceeding a foot in length. In these smaller specimens the canines are not so numerous or well developed as in the larger one.

"One specimen when caught, vomited up small fish and a *Pilumnus*. Was tough for eating, but good."—D.

DIACOPE MARGINATA. Cuv.

DiaCOPE marginata, Cuv. et Val. Hist. des Poiss. tom. ii. p. 320.

FORM.—Greatest depth of the body and length of the head equal, each being not quite one-third of the entire length. Nape somewhat elevated, whence the profile falls very regularly in a slightly convex line. The jaws appear equal when open, but when closed the upper one is a little the longest. Teeth velutine, with four well-marked canines in the upper jaw, two on each side of the anterior extremity, the outer one of which is longer than the inner. Opercle with two flat blunt points. Denticulations of the preopercle, particularly those at the angle below the notch, moderately well developed. Tubercle of the interopercle prominent. There are scales on the cheeks and pieces of the gill-cover, but none on the crown, snout, jaws, or suborbitals. The scales on the

body are moderately large. There are rows of small scales between the rays of the vertical fins, but they are more developed between the soft rays than between the spinous. The dorsal has the first spine half the length of the second, which itself is a little shorter than the third; fourth, fifth, and sixth equal and longest; there is very little difference in the lengths of the remaining rays, nor is there much between the spinous and soft portions of the fin, which, taken as a whole, appears nearly even throughout. Anal short, commencing in a line with the fourth soft ray of the dorsal, and terminating at the same distance from the caudal as that fin: second and third spines very stout. Pectorals narrow and pointed, a little shorter than the head. Ventrals a little shorter than the pectorals.

B. 7; D. 10/14, the last double; A. $3/8$, the last double; C. 17, and some short ones; P. 16; V. $1/5$.

Length 6 inches.

COLOUR.—"Upper part pale lead colour: pectorals yellow; ventrals and anal orange: sides very pale yellow."—D. In spirits, the colour appears almost uniform greyish-white. The dorsal and anal fins have an edging of black, which is not noticed by Mr. Darwin, and which is characteristic of the species. The caudal is entirely dusky. There are no traces of spots on any part of the body.

Habitat, Keeling Island, Indian Ocean.

All the known species of *DiaCOPE* are stated by Cuvier and Valenciennes, as coming from the Indian seas. The *D. marginata* was first brought from thence by Commerson. It was afterwards received by the authors above mentioned from Pondicherry. The expedition under Captain Duperrey, met with it at the Island of Oualan. Mr. Darwin's specimen was obtained at the Keeling or Cocos Islands: I believe it to be referrible to this species, as it possesses the characteristic black edging on the dorsal and anal fins; but as the description in the "Histoire des Poissons" is very brief, containing a mere notice of the colours, I have thought it advisable to annex that of the present individual.

GENUS—ARRIPIS. Jen.

Membrana branchialis septem-radiata; aperturá amplá. Pinna dorsalis unica; spinis gracilibus. Dentes aculeiformes, tenues; serie maxillari externá cæteris fortiori. Operculum mucronibus duobus parvis posticè armatum. Preoperculum marginibus basali et adscendenti denticulatis; spinis nullis. Ossa infraorbitalia leviter denticulata. Os maxillare squamosum. Squamæ corporis levissimè ciliatis, posticè striis levissimis, transversis, parallelis, flabelli locum occupantibus.

I propose to establish this new genus for the reception of the *Centropristes Georgianus* of Valenciennes, which appears to offer sufficient peculiarities to